

ABRAHAM

LINCOLN

and the

IRREPRESSIBLE

CONFLICT

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A STUDY
of
ABRAHAM LINCOLN

**THE LAST
AND GLORIFIED DECADE
of HIS
EVENTFUL LIFE**

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PREFACE.

The Frenchman says: "After Hugo, God." But Abraham Lincoln is easily the world's incomparable man; and at this remove of forty years, he is still growing on our vision. Our children will know and appreciate him more than we, and our grand children more than they.

This contribution to the great mass of Lincoln literature extant fills an empty space, in this; it is brief, and tells only what bears oft repeating. It can be read by the busy man at a sitting. It would make fit supplementary reading in public and private schools; and the author has, in its preparation, an eye to this use.

Abraham Lincoln

CHAPTER I.

THE IRREPRESSIBLE CONFLICT.

ABRAMHAM LINCOLN is one of the two greatest characters in American history. Washington the father; Lincoln the savior of his country.

But the great man was modest in the extreme; and when the nation called him, he said in all sincerity:

“I am not fit to be president.”

When in 1860, it became evident that he would be the Republican nominee for the presidency, one of the editors of the Chicago Tribune (Scripps) applied to him for material from which to write a first

biography of his life. Mr. Lincoln made protest, and said:

“There is nothing to write; one line of Oliver Goldsmith tells it all,

“ ‘The short and simple annals of the poor.’ ”

When Lincoln was nineteen years of age, having reached a stature of nearly six feet and four inches, he had a yearning to see the world outside. He piloted flat-boats of produce upon the Illinois and Mississippi rivers to New Orleans; and here witnessed the horrors of slavery. He said, then:

“If I ever get a chance, I’ll hit that thing hard.”

When twenty-five years old, and a member of the legislative body of his state, he put on record his vote and protest against slavery, declaring it to be “founded on injustice and in bad policy.” This was

in the year 1834, the year that Lovejoy suffered martyrdom at Alton for the same cause; and in that same year, Garrison was dragged by a mob through the streets of Boston.

In 1840, Mr. Lincoln was a presidential elector on the Whig national ticket, and four years later he was active in the presidential campaign for Henry Clay. I first saw him in that campaign, and heard him speak at Washington, Tazewell Co., Illinois, on the tariff question.

In 1846 his district in Illinois elected him to congress, and in that congress he introduced a bill looking to the emancipation of the slaves in the District of Columbia, and compensation therefor. Mr. Lincoln gave further expression of his anti-slavery impulses by voting for the Wilmot Proviso, "more than forty times in one way or another," he says.

But such was the pro-slavery sentiment of the time, he despaired of ever seeing the day when the cause of Freedom—the cause nearest his heart—could get a hearing.

And when his congressional term of service expired in 1849, he left his seat discouraged; his interest in politics waned, and he quit the field, and gave himself up to the practice of his profession.

The repeal of the “Missouri Compromise” bill in 1854, which opened the territories of the United States to the invasion of slavery, aroused the sleeping lion in Mr. Lincoln’s breast. *His time had come!* The throes preceeding the birth of the Republican party were on, and Mr. Lincoln was easily the leader of the new party.

It was in May, 1856, at Bloomington, that the first Republican State Convention was held. Two years of wrestling

with opposition, and preparation had been looking forward to this event. Editor Medill, of the Chicago Tribune, had insisted—and his insistence prevailed—that the infant party should be christened, “The National Republican,” and he and Rufus Spaulding wrote the platform: “*No more slave states; no more slave territory.*” John C. Vaughan added the two clauses: “*Slavery is sectional; Liberty is national.*”

Mr. Lincoln was present at the meeting, which was held in a church. He was not a delegate, and by chance or otherwise, he addressed the Convention and made a speech which was said to be the most eloquent of his life.

W. C. Lovejoy had just spoken, when a cry over the house was made for “Lincoln,”

Mr. Lincoln had taken no part in the proceedings, and was sitting in the back

part of the house. When his name was called, he "stalked forth with a swinging, giraffe lope;" he never walked straight like other men. Standing in front of the pulpit, he began:

"Gentlemen of the Convention, I am not here as a delegate; I have no credentials; I might be taken as an interloper. But you have given me a call to speak, and, I have, like a Methodist minister, responded."

Shouts of "Take the pulpit!" went up from every part of the house. He took the pulpit, and continued:

"A few of us got together in my office yesterday at Springfield, and we elected ourselves sympathetic visitors to this Convention. We have no Republican party in Springfield, and I foresee perturbations that will tax the wisest of men to keep American citizens from imbruing their hands in the blood of their brothers."

Then he drew a picture of slavery, and delivered a most terrible invective upon that institution.

It is to be regretted that this great speech of Lincoln's, said to be the first in a series of events that made him president, was not preserved.

Mr. Medill said; "I have often tried to reproduce that speech from memory, but have as often failed, and had to give it up, and it is lost to the world. I remember the last sentence: '*Come, what will, you may count on Abraham Lincoln to the bitter end,*'—but I do not pretend to remember more; and when the speech was ended, I found myself standing on the top of the table, shouting and yelling like one possessed; but I had no notes and my fellow reporters were in a like fix."

Another account of this Bloomington speech is given by Mr. Herndon, Lincoln's

partner in business. He relates that he attempted, for a few minutes, to take notes as usual, but presently threw pen and paper to the winds and lived in the inspiration of the hour.

“Lincoln came forward,” said Mr. Herndon,” in answer to repeated calls, and made a speech, the grandest effort of his life. Hitherto he had argued the slavery question on the ground of policy. Now, he was newly baptized and freshly born, and he had all the fervor of a new convert. The smothered flame broke out, his face all aglow, his eyes afire, and he spoke right on, and out, as one inspired.

“His speech overflowed with fun, and force, and fury. It was logic; it was pathos; it was enthusiasm refined. It was justice and truth, all ablaze from a soul maddened by great wrong. ‘Slavery is wrong, or nothing is wrong,’ he shouted at the top of his voice.

“It was in his heart, then, to say; ‘I believe this government cannot endure permanently, half slave and half free; it will become all the one thing or all the other.’ He had, as I knew, incorporated these words in this Bloomington address, but had yielded at the last moment to the pleadings of his friend, Judge Dickey, and withheld them *‘for this campaign only.’* But, with this phrasing of words out, the speech was heavy, hard, knotty, and a righteous indignation and wrath lay back of it all.

“If ordinarily the speaker was six feet and four inches high, at Bloomington, on that day in May, *he was seven feet.*

“He felt the weight of a great cross upon him. A great idea held him firmly; he nursed it, and taught it to others. He lived, henceforth, in the light of it, and was at last, a martyr to it.”

Manifestly, only one born great is fitted to lead in the supreme hour; there must be greatness of soul for great achieving.

Mr. Lincoln's advantage over his opponents was, other things being equal, that "he instinctively felt that he had justice, philosophy, the constitution, and the enlightened opinion of mankind upon his side."

It was in June, 1858, at the State Convention, assembled at Springfield, that Lincoln first stated publicly the one great issue in the political campaign, as he had conceived it two years before, and which statement he reluctantly withheld at the ever memorable Bloomington meeting. He said, in that convention in Springfield:

"In my opinion it will not cease," meaning the slavery agitation, "until a crisis shall have been reached and passed. 'A house divided against itself cannot stand.' I believe

this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the union to be dissolved; I do not expect the house to fall; but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing, or all the other."

These brave, prophetic words did defeat Lincoln for the Senate, as his anxious friends had predicted that they would; but, better than they knew, they contributed to make him president. When, in later years, Mr. Lincoln was questioned as to why he made that speech in Springfield, so in advance of that day, and so in advance even of his own party, he answered simply: "I made up my mind it was time to say something." And what he said led to the great Lincoln-Douglas Debate. Douglas promptly answered in Chicago, the "House Divided Against Itself" speech. Lincoln's challenge to debate followed; the result is well known.

The immediate effect of Lincoln's bold front and words lost him many old friends who would not go so far, even with him. But "Abe" Lincoln was steadfast. "I would rather go down in defeat, with these words in my speech and held up and discussed before the people, than to be victorious without them." To his loyal friends, Mr. Lincoln said:

"This thing has been retarded long enough. The time has come when these sentiments should be uttered, and if it is decreed that I shall go down for uttering them, then let me go down; *let me die for the truth and the right.*"

But *one* of a dozen leading Republicans to whom Lincoln read his speech, approved of it. That one was Herndon. He said, "*Deliver the speech as you have it, and it will make you president.*"

One other thing said, in that famous Springfield-address, was prophetic. Mr.

Lincoln had complimented his opponent by saying,

“Senator Douglas holds, we know, that a man may rightfully be wiser today than he was yesterday. Now, whenever, if ever, Judge Douglas and we can come together on principle, so our cause may have assistance from his great ability, I hope to have interposed no adventitious obstacle. I wish now, as ever, not to misrepresent Judge Douglas’ position, or do ought that can be personally offensive to him.”

“*Whenever, if ever, Judge Douglas and we can come together !*” History tells how quickly “Judge Douglas and we” came together and how we did have the “assistance of his great ability,” For when the great rebellion broke out and before Mr. Lincoln had taken his seat, Judge Douglas went to him and offered his loyal services to the government and was accepted.

At the first inauguration, Douglas stood near the president and held his hat while, from the steps of the capitol, Lincoln read his address. Douglas, it is reported, was his closest hearer and nodded approval repeatedly. When the president had taken the oath, Judge Douglas was first to grasp his hand and extend congratulations.

Although Douglas died within a few weeks from that date and before the war had much progressed, his great influence lived and was potent in the North to the end of the struggle.

Mr. Lincoln had said in his debate with Judge Douglas on the occasion just alluded to:

“But clearly, Judge Douglas is not with us now; he does not pretend to be with us; he does not pretend ever to be with us. Plainly, then, we must appeal to our undoubted friends for support of our cause.

“Two years ago, the Republicans of the nation mustered but thirteen thousand strong, and we fought the battle through under the constant, hot fire of a disciplined, proud and pampered enemy. Did we brave all then, to falter now?—now, when that same enemy is wavering, dissevered and belligerent?

“The result is not doubtful; we shall not fail; if we stand firm we shall not fail. Wise counsels may accelerate, or mistakes delay it, but sooner or later, the victory is sure to come.”

Mr. Lincoln, in his subsequent debates with Douglas, warmed over the substance of the “House divided against itself” speech; but his illustrations and word picturing were so fresh and forceful that it did not seem like repetition.

Lincoln confuted Senator Douglas’ interpretation of The Declaration of Independence. Douglas had said that the framers of that Declaration meant by “all

men" all "British subjects," and no other were meant. Lincoln said they meant all men; that "all men are created equal. Not equal in all respects, but "equal in some respects." Men are "not equal in color, nor in size, nor in intellect, nor in moral developement nor in social capacity but all are equal in certain inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness."

Mr. Lincoln explained that the framers of The Declaration of Independence did not mean to assert that "all men are actually in the enjoyment of their inalienable rights," nor did they mean that the Declaration of Rights did or could confer inalienable rights. The authors of The Declaration meant to declare the rights to which man, as man, is entitled, and they left the consummation of what ought to be to follow as best it could and when it could.

“They set up the standard for free society which should be recognized by all, revered by all and constantly strived for by all; and though never attained, should be constantly approximated. It was placed in The Declaration not for use in our separation from Great Britain, but for future use. It was meant to be a stumbling block for all who seek to enslave men; it was meant to be a hard nut for tyrants to crack”

Mr. Lincoln had now a national reputation, won through his contact with Douglas in the great debates. As the year 1860 drew near, Lincoln's name was being freely mentioned in the West in connection with the presidency. The eastern cities wanted to see and hear this strange illiterate man of the forest, the fame of whose exploiting in the West had reached them.

It was arranged that he should go to New York City, and he accepted an invita-

tion to speak in Mr. Beechers' church in Brooklyn. After his arrival in the metropolis, the place of meeting was changed to the "Cooper Union Institute," so many wished to hear him.

The address he made on that occasion has been lauded as "one of the most logical and convincing political speeches ever made in this country." Hon. Jos. H. Choate, of New York City, gives the following graphic account of the man and his effort:

"It is now forty years since I first saw and heard Abraham Lincoln, but the impression which he left on my mind is ineffacable. He appeared in every sense of the word like one of the plain people among whom he loved to be counted.

"As he talked with me before the hour of meeting at Cooper Union, he seemed ill at ease with that sort of apprehension a young man might feel before presenting himself to

a new and strange audience whose critical disposition he dreaded.

“It was a great audience including all the most noted men, all the learned and cultured of his party in New York, editors, clergymen, statesmen, lawyers, merchants, critics. All were very curious to hear him. His fame as a powerful speaker had preceeded him and exaggerated rumor of his wit had reached the East.

“When from the high platform of the Cooper Institute William Cullen Bryant presented him, a vast sea of eager, upturned faces greeted him, full of intense curiosity to see what this rude child of the people was like.

“*He was equal to the occasion.* When he spoke, he was transformed, his eye kindled, his voice rang, his face shone and seemed to light up the whole assembly. For an hour and a half he held that audience in the hollow of his hand.

“His style, and speech, and manner of

delivery, were severely simple. 'The grand simplicities of the Bible' as Lowell says, with which he was so familiar were reflected in his discourse. With no attempt at ornament or rhetoric, without parade or pretense, he spoke straight to the point. If any came expecting the turgid eloquence or ribaldry of the frontier, they must have been startled at the earnest and sincere purity of his utterance.

"It was marvelous to see how this untutored man by mere self discipline and the chastening of his own spirit, had outgrown all meretricious arts and found his way to the grandure and strength of absolute simplicity. In the kindest spirit, he protested against the avowed threat of the Southern States to destroy the Union, if, in order to secure freedom in those vast regions out of which future states were to be carved, a Republican president were elected.

"He closed with an appeal to his audience spoken with all the fire of his aroused and

kindled conscience, with a full outpouring of his love of justice and liberty, to maintain their political purpose on that lofty and unsailable issue of right and wrong which alone could justify it and not to be intimidated from their high resolve and sacred duty by any threats of destruction to the government or of ruin to themselves. He concluded with this telling sentence which drove the whole argument home to all our hearts:

“ ‘Let us have faith that right makes might and in that faith let us to the end dare to do our duty as we understand it.’

“That night the great Hall, and the next day, the whole city rang with delighted applause and congratulations, and he who had come as a stranger departed with the laurels of a great triumph.”

Another witness of this scene said;

“When Lincoln rose to speak, I was greatly disappointed, so tall was he and angular and so awkward. For an instant, I felt pity for so ungainly a man. But he had

spoken not many words when he straightened up, made regular and graceful gestures; his face lighted as from an inward fire; the whole man was transfigured before that great multitude.

“I forgot his personal appearance and his individual peculiarities; and, forgetting myself, I was on my feet with the rest, yelling like a wild Indian and cheering the wonderful man.

“In the closing parts of his argument you could hear the sizzling of the gas burners, and when he reached a climax, the thunders of applause were terrific!

“*It was a great speech.* When I came out of the hall my face was glowing with excitement, and my frame all a quiver. A friend in the audience asked me what I thought of Abe Lincoln. I answered, ‘*He’s the greatest man since St. Paul!*’ And I think so yet.”

It was now apparent to many what would happen in the near future; that at the great Olympiad at Chicago, May

16th, Abraham Lincoln would be the nominee for president, and in November would be elected.

He had the votes, it was believed, and the voters were flinging his name against the sky. "*It is the voice of God,*" they cry.

But would the election of a Republican president bring dis-union and a civil war? These were threatened, but it was not believed that the *people*, either north or south, wanted war, or expected it. Mr. Lincoln, himself, scarcely believed it.

"Surely it will not come to this; only madness could go so far."

This Lincoln thought, and he made it known, that he would not be the aggressor. But there were leaders in the rebellion who meant war, beyond what was then commonly known. They had long openly threatened it and longer secretly prepared for it.

The election in November was no sooner declared, than the dis-union movement in the south broke out in open revolt, and in reckless haste, seven states (afterwards eleven in all) adopted ordinances of secession and formed an independent confederacy, electing Jefferson Davis, president.

This was some weeks before Lincoln was inaugurated, and before he could lift a finger to stay the revolt against the government, in which the reigning administration of Buchanan seemed to have no heart and no purpose to check; so the cause of the Union had to suffer, Lincoln's hands tied, until the 4th of March.

On Feb. 11th, Lincoln left his home in Springfield on his way to Washington, to take his seat at the head of the government and pilot the Ship of State through the rough seas of unreason and passion. To

his many friends who met him at his home depot, he said;

“No one, not in my position, can know the sadness I feel at this parting. To this people I owe all that I am. Here I have lived more than quarter of a century; here my children were born, and here one of them lies buried. I know not how soon I shall see you again. A duty devolves upon me, greater, perhaps, than has devolved upon any man since the days of Washington. My friends, pray that I may receive the Divine assistance, without which I cannot succeed, but with which I cannot fail.”

At Cincinnati, on his way east, Lincoln addressed himself to the Kentuckians, many of whom were present to hear him. He reminded them of what he told them in the same city a year before.

“I said then: ‘When we beat you in the elections, as we expect to do, you will want to know, perhaps, what we intend to do with you—I told you what we intended. I will tell

you now, as far as I am authorized to speak what we mean to do with you.

“We mean to treat you, as near as we possibly can, as Washington, Jefferson and Madison treated you. We mean to leave you alone, and in no way to interfere with your institutions, and to abide by all and every compromise of the Constitution.”

The train carrying the president and his body guard to the national Capital arrived in Philadelphia on Washington's birthday. It was arranged that the president should raise a new American flag over Independence Hall, on which occasion he made the happiest little impromptu speech of his life.

“All the political sentiments I entertain have been drawn, so far as I have been able to draw them, from the sentiments which originated in, and were given to the world from this Hall. I have never had a feeling politically, that did not spring from the sentiments embodied in the Declaration of Inde

pendence, sentiments which allow liberty not only in this country, but to all the world and, for all time.

“Now, my friends, can this country be saved upon this basis? If it can, I will consider myself one of the happiest men in the world if I can help save it. But if this country cannot be saved without giving up that principle, I was about to say *I would rather be assassinated on this spot than surrender it.*”

It was here the friends of Lincoln learned of a plot in Baltimore to assassinate him as his train passed through that city. Once, in Indiana, an attempt was made to wreck the presidential train by placing obstructions on the track. A similar attempt was made in Ohio by the use of dynamite.

But the Baltimore conspiracy was so vast, some twenty persons being involved in it, that detectives were put upon their track, and Mr. Lincoln at last yielded to

the insistence of his friends, that he should steal his way through the disloyal city the night, on an earlier train, and his party follow on schedule time. This was done. A telegram having announced the president's advanced arrival, the regular train carrying the presidential party was not molested.

The city of Washington was filled with enemies of the administration, and was by no means sure that Mr. Lincoln would be inaugurated into his great office without farther attempt to take his life.

On the 4th of March, however, Lincoln was duly and safely inaugurated and his address sent forth to the people, a masterpiece of persuasive speech, and of fatherly counsel, in the kindest words, although to wayward children, whom he feared would turn from going in perilous ways.

He assured the people of the southern states that their property and personal security were not in the least endangered by

the accession of a Republican administration to power, and he referred to declarations of his, oft repeated, and found in nearly all his published speeches.

“I do but quote from one of these, when I declare I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the states where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination to do this.”

And after affectionately reasoning with them on this point, he said:

“I shall take care, as the constitution itself expressly enjoines upon me, that the laws of the Union be faithfully executed in all the states. Doing this, I deem it to be only a simple duty on my part, and I shall perform it, so far as practicable, unless my rightful masters, the American people, shall withhold the requisite means, or in some authoritative manner direct to the contrary.

“In doing this, there need be no bloodshed or violence, and there shall be none, un-

less it be forced upon the national authority. That there are persons, in one section or another, who seek to destroy the Union at all events, and are glad of any pretext to do so, I will neither affirm nor deny; but if there be such, I need address no word to them.

“To those, however, who really love the Union, may I not speak? Before entering upon so grave a matter as the destruction of our national fabric, with all its benefits, its memories, and its hopes, would it not be wise to ascertain precisely why we do it?

“Will you hazard so desperate a step when the certain ills you fly to are greater than the real or imaginary ones you fly from? Will you risk the commission of so fearful a mistake?

“All profess to be content in the Union, all constitutional rights can be maintained. Is it true, that any right, plainly written in the Constitution has been denied? I think not. Happily, the human mind is so constituted that no party can reach to the audacity of doing this.

“Think, if you can, of a single instance in which a plain written provision of the Constitution has ever been denied. No. We divide upon questions where the Constitution does not expressly answer. From questions of this class spring all our constitutional controversies, and we divide upon them in majorities and minorities. If the minority will not acquiesce, the majority must, or the government must cease.

“One section of our country believes slavery is right, and ought to be extended, while the other believes it is wrong and ought not to be extended. This is the only substantial dispute. Physically speaking, we cannot separate; we cannot remove our respective sections from each other, nor build an impassable wall between them. A husband and wife may be divorced, and go out of the presence of each other; but the different parts of our country cannot do this; they cannot but remain face to face, and intercourse, either amicable or hostile, must continue between them.

“Is it possible then, to make that intercourse more advantageous, or more satisfactory after separation than before? Can aliens make treaties easier than friends can make laws? Can treaties be more faithfully enforced between aliens than laws can be between friends?

“Suppose you go to war. You cannot fight always, and when after much loss on both sides, and no gain on either, you cease fighting; the identical old questions as to terms of intercourse are again upon you.”

“My countrymen, one and all, think calmly and well upon this whole subject. Nothing valuable can be lost by taking time. If there be an object to hurry any of you in hot haste to take a step which you would never take deliberately, that object will be frustrated by taking time, but no good object can be frustrated by it.

“I am loathe to close. We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must

not break our bond of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battle field and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

The cautious and pacific policy shadowed forth in this first inaugural address was admirable. Nothing could be written more to the purpose; and yet these conciliatory, wise, and just words had no effect upon the secessionists; *upon the wavering, vacillating minds of the north they had a powerful effect.* But the radical element in the Republican party was not satisfied. They would have been pleased to have had a more drastic paper, and a war with slavery at once.

Mr. Lincoln would, because he felt he must, allow to slavery all the protection the Constitution expressly gave; he would

not disturb it in the states where it was established, and where it had constitutional rights. Lincoln's policy was, not to inaugurate bloodshed. He would wait for the enemies of the Union to strike the first blow. Then, "if the one side would go to war for disunion, for no other purpose than to preserve slavery, then the war must continue, on the other side, for the Union, to destroy slavery."

In that first inaugural address Lincoln had said:

"In your hands, my dissatisfied countrymen, and not in mine, is the momentous issue of Civil War; the government will not assault you. You can have no conflict without being yourselves, the aggressors. You have no oath registered in Heaven to destroy the government, while I have the most solemn one 'to preserve, protect and defend it.' "

And now, Lincoln, at the head of the government, and the Commander in Chief

f the Army and Navy of the United States, was confronted with the fact that he had neither army nor navy, save a remnant of each on hand. The outgoing administration, sympathizing with the Rebellion, had purposely or helplessly, allowed the plotters of internal dissensions to scatter the already too small army and navy to distant quarters of the globe, that they might not be on hand when needed; at a time these secret enemies of the government saw coming, a time they meant should come.

The forts and arsenals in reach had been appropriated, and held for service against the union, when the hour arrived. The treasury was empty, and there were not guns on hand to arm volunteers. Worse than all, the northern states were not united in the purpose of the government to preserve the union, at all hazards.

Never was president beset with such difficulties. "A task greater than Wash-

ington's" was on his hands. But he never faltered or despaired of success. He grew to the work he had confronting him and met the emergency of each day as it arrived, proving himself equal to the task. When the border states were anxious and hesitating, undecided whether to cast the lot on the side of union or disunion, they plied the president with questions as to what course he would pursue in treating with the rebellious states. Lincoln never prevaricated, or gave any uncertain sound. His policy, from the first, he clearly stated.

When a committee from the Virginia Convention, just after the firing on Fort Sumpter, called on him, asking concerning the policy the federal executive intended to pursue in regard to the confederate states, he answered:

"It is my purpose to use the power conferred in me to hold, occupy and possess property and places belonging to the government.

and to collect the duties and imports; but beyond what is necessary for these objects, there will be no invasion, no use of force against or among the people anywhere. In case it proves true, as is reported, that Fort Sumpter has been assaulted, I shall hold myself at liberty to repossess it, if I can; and in any event, I shall, to the best of my ability, *repel force by force.*"

Lincoln kept his promise to make no invasion, use no force against any people anywhere, and least of all, to inaugurate blood-shed when blood had to be shed.

On the 12th day of April following the inauguration, Beauregard with a hostile army fired upon Fort Sumpter, in Charleston Harbor. It was the first gun in the great strife,—the world's most terrible Civil War. On the Union side alone, two million soldiers and 5 billions of treasure were involved, covering four years of duration.

Now let us follow this man of destiny who from this on, was continually doing what only the greatest men of history are wise enough to do. Lincoln made his rivals and personal enemies, members of his cabinet, Seward and Chase, and a little later, Stanton. These men had been unfriendly to Lincoln. They did not consider him in their class.

Seward especially, was smarting under the wrong, as he conceived it, his party had done him, in choosing this uncultured man of the West before himself for president. And in his thought of superiority, Seward undertook to dictate to Mr. Lincoln. He wrote out a memorandum of things to do, telling him that he, the president, had no policy, domestic or foreign, and that he ought to do this and that.

Had another man been president, the affront would have been a mortal insult and Mr. Seward would have been, the next

ay, a private citizen. But Lincoln ignored the insult, and retained the services of his really great secretary; but he was careful to refresh his memory with the information that the administration *did have* very decided domestic policy, clearly stated, as laid down in the inaugural address, with his, (Seward's,) approval; that the administration had also a foreign policy, as declared in his own, (Seward's) dispatches, with the President's approval." And he further tutored his cabinet officer, that if any policy was to be maintained, or changed, that he, the president, would direct that policy on his own responsibility, and in performing that duty, he said, "*I have a right to the advice of my secretaries.*"

There was never afterwards a repetition of this offense, which first offense was pardoned as a temporal aberration of a great mind" and Mr. Seward atoned for it

afterwards by devoted personal loyalty and through great service rendered the union cause.

After the firing on Fort Sumpter, the president's call for seventy-five thousand fighting men had quick response. The loyal citizen would now go to war to save the union, but not yet, would the northern states fight to destroy slavery. Lincoln knew this; he understood the people better than any other man; he knew one other thing, that if the war continued for an considerable time, *slavery could not survive*.

Mr. Lincoln reasoned that the government had no right to make war to destroy slavery where it existed, in the beginning but the slave power making war to preserve and extend slavery, must forfeit its right and lose in the end.

The government had a right to destroy any power, as a war measure, that

threatened to destroy the existence of the government. Lincoln foresaw, that if the war continued, the time would come, when as a necessary measure, he must exert all the executive power of the government to destroy slavery, root and branch.

When it becomes a necessity of war to save the Union, the institution, or thing that caused the war, must fall. This was Mr. Lincoln's position from the first. That time, in his opinion, had not yet arrived; but, clearer than others, Lincoln saw it coming. "Wait for it," he said to his dissatisfied friends, "and you will see it." Lincoln would not act before the time, as some would have him do. "Events control me," he said, "*I cannot control events.*"

It was in July, 1862, when the president surprised his cabinet with a draft of his Emancipation Proclamation. The paper in its conception and phrasing was Lin-

coln's. He laid it before his secretaries as a war measure, on which his mind was made up. He asked for suggestions in details only. Secretary Seward favored delaying the public proclamation a little.

Mr. Lincoln's idea was to make the preliminary announcement, giving notice that on the first day of January, 1863, he would issue another proclamation, declaring that: "All persons held as slaves within any state, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be henceforth and forever free." In the cabinet meeting Mr. Lincoln yielded to pressure, and consented to wait for the next victory that would come to the Union Arms, before issuing The Proclamation.

On the 17th of September, the battle of Antietam was fought, and won. The president called his cabinet members together and informed them, that the time

or promulgating the Emancipation policy had arrived, and in a low and reverent tone he said: "*I have promised my God that I will do it.*"

Mr. Chase said; "Do I understand you correctly, Mr. President?"

Lincoln replied: "I have made a solemn vow before God, that if General Lee should be driven back from Pennsylvania, I would crown the result by the declaration of freedom to the slaves." And on Monday, September 22d, the preliminary proclamation was issued.

This proclamation gave one hundred days' notice of what would come on January 1st, 1863. No attention, whatever, the slave states, was given to this proclamation. January 1st, 1863, came; and with it went forth the great *Emancipation Proclamation*, the one great act of Abraham Lincoln's life, that will never be for-

gotten, and that crowns him the deliverer and benefactor, not only of the colored man, but of the human race.

“Rarely does the happy fortune come to one man to render such a service to his kind, to proclaim liberty throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof”. (Choate)

“A great historic event, sublime in its magnitude, momentous in its far-reaching consequences, and eminently just and right alike to the oppressor and oppressed (Garrison.)

When Mr. Lincoln signed this memorable document, Mr. Seward alone was present and he said to his secretary:

“If my name ever goes into history, it will be for this act, and my whole soul is in it.”

The proclamation came not a day too soon, but public sentiment had to be educated up to it, and would not have sustained it sooner. Simultaneously with its publication came the news of the victory at Stone’s River, and of the general ad-

ance of the Union armies both east and west, and there was a turn in the fortunes of war favorable to the cause of freedom from that moment and henceforth.

On July 1st of that year, the two immense armies of the north and the south met at Gettysburg, in what was meant to be a decisive battle; for three days the fields ran blood, *the bloodiest battle of the war*. The northern armies won, at a tremendous cost for victory.

Next day, the fourth of July, Vicksburg surrendered, and the fate of the ill-starred Rebellion was virtually decided, though the final end came later, the lost cause dying hard, still giving and receiving much punishment.

The state of Pennsylvania immediately purchased a piece of the battlefield at Gettysburg, and set it apart as a burying ground for the loyal soldiers who had there

fallen by thousands, giving up their lives as a free will offering, that the nation might live. Before the year closed, four and a half months after the battle, the ground was dedicated by an oration from the Hon. Edward Everett, in the presence of Mr. Lincoln and his cabinet, and a large concourse of people assembled.

After the set oration of the day, the president gave a two minute address which to-day is read in the schools as a Gem in literature, and which, at the time, the Hon. Mr. Everett complimented by saying, that he would gladly exchange his forty pages for this brief address of the president. Mr. Lincoln said:

“Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

“Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But in a larger sense we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget, *what they did here*.

“It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that from these honored

dead we take increased devotion; that we have highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Ralph Waldo Emerson says, "when an orator rises in his thought, he descends in his language to a level with the ear of all his audience." It was marvellously so on this November day. The president's great speech, instantly telegraphed, electrified the whole country. The people, lettered and unlettered, caught the inspiration of the words that went straight to every heart—the best specimens of eloquence we have had in this country."

There were union men opposed to President Lincoln's policy of making use of the colored people for soldiers, seamen and helpers in the army. To them he replied:

“I am naturally anti-slavery. If slavery is not wrong, nothing is wrong. I cannot remember when I did not so think and feel, and yet I have never understood that the presidency conferred upon me an unrestricted right to act officially upon this judgment and feeling. I aver that to this day, I have done no official act in mere deference to my abstract judgment and feeling on slavery.

“I did understand, however, that my oath to preserve the constitution to the best of my ability, imposed upon me the duty of preserving that government, that nation, of which that constitution was the organic law. Was it possible to lose the nation and yet preserve the constitution? I felt that measures otherwise unconstitutional might become lawful by becoming indispensable to the preservation of the constitution through the preservation of the nation. I assumed this ground and now avow it. I could not feel that I had even tried to preserve the constitution, if to save slavery or any minor matter, I had per-

mitted the wreck of government, constitution and all together.

“Early in the war, General Fremont attempted military emancipation. I forbade it, not deeming it then an indispensable necessity. General Cameron, Secretary of War suggested arming the blacks; I objected; I did not think the indispensable time had come. General Hunter attempted military emancipation; I again forbade it, believing the time had not yet come.

“In March, May and July of 1862, I made earnest and successive appeals to the border states to favor compensated emancipation. I believed that the indispensable necessity for military emancipation and arming the blacks would come, unless averted by this measure. They declined the proposition, and I was driven to choose between surrendering the Union, or laying a strong hand on the colored element. I chose the latter; and more than a year of trial shows the wisdom of the choice. We have gained a hundred and thirty thousand soldiers, seamen and laborers.

“And now let any Union man who complains of the measure, look at these palpable facts; he is for taking these hundred and forty thousand men from the Union side, and place them where they would be for the measure he condemns. If he cannot face his case stated, *it is only because he cannot face the truth.*”

The cruel and needless war had now continued for three years, and in the first half of 1864, the financial difficulties that set the union were formidable. The national currency was greatly depreciated, until it required nearly three dollars to purchase one of gold.

In May of that year, General Grant commenced his campaign in the east, and each day's slaughter was an army;” but the invincible general held his grip, and continued to advance. Meantime General Sherman was on his march of a thousand miles through the confederate states, and

purposed to reach the sea; and during the whole year; the union forces were victorious on every important battlefield. Nevertheless, it was seen, that the war would drag its slow length along into the new administration.

Lincoln's second nomination was opposed by dissatisfied radicals, and others of his own party; but when, at the National convention in Baltimore, the votes were counted, Lincoln won, receiving every vote save that of Missouri; and by motion of the Missouri delegate the nomination was made unanimous.

With November came the day of election, Lincoln receiving two hundred and twelve electoral votes and the opposition the remaining twenty-one. The last hope of the rebellion was now gone, and it never after gained a substantial victory.

In the hour of his vindication and triumph Lincoln said to his late opponents:

“Now that the election is over, may we not all have a common interest, unite in a common effort to save our common country. For my own part, I have striven and will strive to place no obstacle in the way. So long as I have been here, I have not willingly planted a thorn in any man’s bosom. I do not impugn the motives of any man who opposes me. *It is no pleasure to me to triumph over any one*; but I give thanks for this evidence of the people’s resolution to stand by free government, and the rights of humanity. I have never done an official act with a view to my own personal aggrandizement.”

Mr. Lincoln in his message to Congress in December, after his re-election, reminded them of the advanced position of the American people upon the subject of slavery, and urged them to pass a joint resolution submitting an amendment to the constitution of the United States, abolishing slavery throughout the Union, to the

legislatures of the several states. He said
“it must come to this and the sooner it
comes the better.” In closing his message
he said:

“I retract nothing heretofore said as to
slavery. I repeat the declaration made a year
ago, that while I remain in my present posi-
tion, I shall not attempt to retract or modify
the Emancipation Proclamation, nor shall I
return to slavery any person who is free by
the terms of that proclamation, or by the acts
of congress. If the people should, by what-
ever mode or means, make it an executive
duty to re-enslave such persons, another and
not I, must be their instrument to perform it.”

The joint resolution for the extinc-
tion of slavery passed Congress Jan. 31st,
1865, which was quickly ratified by more
than the three fourths required of the state
Legislatures and the thirteenth amend-
ment to the Constitution was added, and
the proclamation made throughout the
land.

The time is short; events hasten; the second inaugural address made forty days before the assassination had gone to the people. In that address, "greater than the Gettysburg address" says Carl Schurz, and it is not much longer, the president pours out the whole devotion of his great soul. No president or ruler in any land ever found such words in the depths of his heart as these:

"On the occasion, corresponding to this, four years ago, all thoughts were anxiously directed to an impending civil war. All dreaded it; all sought to avoid it. One party would make war rather than let the nation survive; and the other party would accept war rather than let it perish. *And the war came.*

"Neither party expected for the war the magnitude, or the duration which it has already attained. Neither anticipated that the cause of the conflict might cease with, or even before the conflict itself should cease. Each

looked for an easier triumph, and a result less fundamental and astonishing. Both read the same Bible and prayed to the same God; and each invoked his aid against the other. The prayers of both could not be answered; that of neither has been answered fully.

“Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue, until all the wealth piled by the bondman’s two hundred years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn by the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said: ‘The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous, altogether.’

“With malice toward none, with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation’s wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and

is orphan; to do all which may achieve and
erish a just and lasting peace among our-
elves and with all nations."

More hastily than any knew, the clos-
g scenes of the great war were being
acted. History was making fast. The
ebel Congress, in desperation, itself, en-
cted a law, at the last minute, giving
freedom to the slave, on condition that he
ould enter the military service and fight
r the confederacy. But it was too late.
heir schemes all failed and the revelation
f failure was quickly published to all the
orld.

Grant moved irresistibly against the
ebel works at Petersburg, and on to Rich-
ond; only to find the city evacuated, and
ady to receive the victorious army.

Ten days were left President Lincoln
complete his work, when he entered the
allen capital of the confederacy. Five
ays were Lincoln's when the whole rebel

army under General Lee surrendered to General Grant, at Appomattox, and the monster rebellion collapsed. Loyal millions all over the land in the thought of a danger past, now gave way to shouts of "Victory and peace; peace and victory."

Three days were left when President Lincoln addressed the public for the last time, *reconstruction the theme*. There to be no more tearing down, but a building up. A reconstructed Union, stronger than ever, will arise; and to use his words "The mystic chords of memory, stretching from battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone, will again be touched by the angels of man's better nature."

Less than one day remained! "The fourth anniversary of the disloyal hauling down of the American flag on Fort Sumpter and by order of the President that flag, this fourteenth day of April,

to be replaced and the day made celebrate, so far as practicable, in all loyal homes.

The commander in chief of all the Union armies on land and sea at length would unbend himself. "The play's the thing." Making one of a party of four, including his wife, *he went to the theatre.*

It was nine o'clock when the presidential party entered their box. It was ten o'clock when the assassin entered by stealth, a lie upon his lips. He said to the sentinel, that the President had sent for him.

A pistol shot! a scream! a leap to the stage below. The murderer's spur, catching in the folds of a near-by American flag, threw him to the floor, where he was at once recognized as *J. Wilkes Booth*. Recovering himself, and brandishing a drawn dagger, he cleared his way to a back door, and quickly escaped on a fleet horse held in waiting by an accomplice. All this was

enacted in moments of time, and before was known, in the packed audience, what had happened.

A pause! and then the cry: "*he has shot the President.*" Terror and confusion seized the crowd; bedlam reigned; men yelled, women fainted and the weak fell and were trodden upon. The President's guard, two hundred strong, entered, charged the crowd and cleared the building.

Never was so wild a scene in any playhouse since the world began. A real tragedy was there, where before there had only been mimic ones; nor ever again did Ford's theatre open to please or terrify the public.

The story of President Lincoln's assassination is the saddest page in American history. And in Lincoln's murder the unfortunate, [but fortunately vanquished] south *lost their very best friend.* "With

alice toward none and with charity for all," he would have been a brother to them in their sorest need. He made the wrath of his enemies to praise him. The south, scarcely less than the north regretted the violent ending of the great war President's life.

Mr. Lincoln had a presentiment, more than once expressed, that he would have a violent death, that he would not outlive the rebellion, that he would die with it. His parting with his mother in 1861, just before going to his first inauguration in Washington was pathetic. The mother said "they will kill you." He answered her, "if they kill me, I will never die again."

Who knows? Abraham Lincoln may have at this juncture of affairs served his country better by his death, than he could have served it by a further continuance of life. May he not have been "too full of the

milk of human kindness" for the rough and critical work needed in the reconstruction period?

"There is a Providence that rules the fate of peoples, that makes little account of time and no account of disasters; that conquers alike by what is called defeats, as by what is called victory; that thrusts aside the unfit, everything that resists the moral law of the world, and ordains that only that law which combines perfectly with the virtues of all shall endure."—Emerson.

That Lincoln in his life and in his death served the whole country is now believed by all—by the North and by the South.

Abraham Lincoln loved man and hated all injustice.

"The kindly, earnest, brave, foreseeing man."—Lowell.

What wonder, if multitudes of strong men everywhere wept for the death of o

ey had never seen? It was pardonable
the poet who seemed to think himself a
litary mourner.

O, Captain! my Captain! our fearful trip is
done;

The ship has weathered every wrack, the
prize we sought is won;

The port is near, the bells I hear, the people
all exulting,

While follow eyes the steady keel, the vessel
grim and daring;

But O. heart! heart! heart!

O, the bleeding drops of red,

Where on the deck my Captain lies,

Fallen, cold and dead.

O, Captain! my Captain! rise up and hear
the bells;

Rise up! for you the flag is flung, for you
the bugle trills;

For you bouquets and ribboned wreaths, for
you the shores a crowding;

For you they call, the swaying mass, their
eager faces turning;

Here, Captain! dear father!

This arm beneath your head;

It is some dream that on the deck

You've fallen cold and dead.

“My Captain does not answer, his lips are
pale and still;

My father does not feel my arm, he has
pulse nor will;

The ship is anchored safe and sound,
voyage closed and done;

From fearful trip the victor ship comes
with object won;

Exult, O, shores; and ring, O, bells;

But I with mournful tread,

Walk the deck my Captain lies

Fallen, cold and dead.

—Walt Whitman.

CHAPTER II.

THE RETURN TO SPRINGFIELD.

The seventh day after the tragical death of President Lincoln, the funeral cortege left Washington, on its long and arduous journey of sixteen hundred miles to the old home in Illinois. The interest and devotion of the people everywhere along the line were the same, unaffected, sincere and profound. Everybody at farmhouse, hamlet, town and city, seemed to be in a hand with their offering of tears and sympathy.

No president or monarch, or mortal man ever had such triumphal march to the grave, spontaneous and genuine, as it was universal in tribute to worth and greatness.

BALTIMORE.

Baltimore was the first stop from

Washington. Four years before, the president did not dare pass openly through the city, for fear of assassination. Now, the martyred remains were tearfully received with every possible mark of respect by thousands who viewed them in the merchant's exchange building, where they lay in state. It was said, in no city were there manifestations of grief more sincere than in Baltimore.

PHILADELPHIA.

In Philadelphia "the people were counted not by thousands but by acres. The body of the president was conveyed to Independence Hall, the procession marching with uncovered heads to the sound of a dirge performed by a band in the observatory over the hall. From the barracks cannon were booming, and the bells were tolling throughout the city. At Independence Hall, the remains lay in state for

two days and two nights, and was open to the public until midnight of each day.

Four years before Lincoln stood upon the platform whereon his body now lay; memorable were his words. He had flung the new American flag to the breeze. In his brief address, he referred to the Declaration of Independence, which had its birth here, and its dissemination from that hall, and he said:

“There is something in that Declaration that gives hope to the world. There is in it the promise, that in due time the weights shall be lifted from the shoulders of all men, and that all shall have an equal chance. Now my friends, can this country be saved on that basis? If it can, I will consider myself one of the happiest of men, if I can help save it; but if it cannot be saved without giving up that principle, I was about to say, I would rather be assassinated upon this spot than surrender.”

He saved the country "on that principle," nor yet escape the assassination.

NEW YORK.

At the ferry landing in New York City, the coffined remains of the president were transferred to a magnificent canopied hearse or funeral car sixteen feet long and twenty-three feet high. On the platform five feet from the ground, was a long table on which the coffin rested and from this elevation it could easily be seen over the heads of the multitude. Over the dais table, the canopy was supported by columns and by a miniature temple of liberty, which temple was represented as despoiled.

The platform was covered by black cloth hung nearly to the ground, edged and festooned with silver bullion fringe. The canopy was trimmed in the same manner, with black cloth festooned and spangled with silver bullion, with corners su

mounted by rich plumes of black and white feathers. At the base of each column, three American flags inclined outward, steepled with crape. The inside of the car was lined with white satin.

In the center of this canopy hung a large eagle, with outspread wings, and in its talons a laurel wreath. The platform around the coffin was strewn with flowers.

The funeral car was drawn by sixteen white horses, covered with black cloth trimming, each horse led by a groom. The procession was most imposing, as it moved through a sea of humanity on all sides as far as the eye could see. Every house was draped in mourning, and in every direction flags flying at half mast. Minute guns firing in the distance, church bells tolling, and Trinity's chime bells wailing forth "Old Hundred" in a solemn and impressive manner.

At the city hall the body of the martyred president lay in state. All day, and all night long, the stream of humanity continued to flow through the great hall; but thousands upon thousands who had stood in line for hours never reached the coffin-remains. A military force of fifteen thousand men joined in the great demonstration.

CLEVELAND.

The largest expenditure made by any city on the route to provide a resting place for a few hours for the remains of Abraham Lincoln was at Cleveland, Ohio. In a public park a beautiful temple had been erected. Within was a gorgeous catafalque or tomb.

“This temple seemed in daylight as if it was a creation of fairy land, and when lighted up at night with all the lanterns, and standing out amid the surrounding darkness, looked

more like the realization of an enchanted castle, than the work of men's hands."

COLUMBUS.

At Columbus, Ohio, the magnificent barge which the citizens provided for the occasion, was as large and richly furnished as that at New York, and the procession was far the most imposing that had ever passed through the streets of Ohio's capital. Battle flags, torn and riddled with bullets in fights for the Union, were borne by Ohio regiments or drooped sadly around the place where rested the lifeless clay of Abraham Lincoln. The address of the orator, Job Stevenson on the occasion was notable. He said:

"President Lincoln pleaded and prayed for peace; 'long declined the war,' and only when the storm in fury burst upon the flag, did he arm for the Union. Tried by dire disaster, he stood firm; he trusted in God, and

the people; and the people trusted in God and in him. Tried by civil affairs which would have tested the powers of Jefferson, Hamilton and Washington, he administered them wisely and well, that after three years Washington, no man was found to take his place. Tried in every way, he comes forth the greatest of living men.

“What have we here? After four short years of service he returns, borne upon the bosom of millions of men; his way watered with tears and strewn with flowers. He was the true friend of the south as Jesus was the friend of sinners, ready to forgive and save when they repent. Ours is the grief, theirs the loss and his the gain. He died for liberty and Union, and now he wears the martyr's glorious crown; he is our crowned president. The imperial free Republic, the best and strongest government on earth, will be a monument to his glory, while over and above all shall rise and swell the great dome of his fame.”

CHICAGO.

Approaching Chicago, one hundred miles out, the funeral escort was met by a citizen's committee of one hundred members. The train halted at Lake Park, where three immense Gothic funeral arches had been erected. Fifty American flags with drapery interwoven, were used for decoration. Busts and portraits of Lincoln and two figures of the American eagle, and appropriate inscriptions were added. Here the coffined bodily form of the president rested for a while.

Thirty six young lady pupils from the high schools, representing the thirty six states, dressed in white, walked around the bier and deposited floral gifts, while the Light Guard Band played the Lincoln requiem, composed for the occasion. The casket was then placed in a funeral car, and the immense procession passed through

the streets, according to the program which had been definitely prescribed, and in due time arrived at the Court House. Over the door were inscribed the words "The beauty of Israel is slain upon her high places."

A gorgeously prepared catafalque received the coffin, and there for twenty-eight hours the remains of Abraham Lincoln lay, while a continuous stream of people passed, through the long hours of the day and night, to take a last view of the form of him they loved. Some conception of the princely offerings made, may be inferred from the fact that the City Council paid fifteen thousand dollars for the two items, the construction of the arches and the decoration of the Court House, which represented not a tithe of the total expenditure by citizens and associations.

"Nor wood nor stone can fit memorial yield
For deeds of valor on life's battlefield,"

WILLIAMSVILLE.

At Williamsville, near Springfield, the people had thrown an arch over the railroad track, bearing the inscription,

"He has fulfilled his mission."

SPRINGFIELD.

It is the twelfth day from Washington. *Home at last.* But a hearse, and not the usual carriage, meets him and takes him from the train. Four years before on leaving, he had said to his neighbors, "I know not how soon I may return." He is now returned. Imagine the scene among his lifelong friends, at this untoward home coming.

Forty centuries ago, the Patriarch Jacob was followed to "the cave of his fathers" by two thousand dependents of the deceased, and by order of his premier son, Joseph, all the chief men of the land

were commanded "to report for additional escort." That was an imposing funeral scene, but this is a spontaneous outburst of feeling, and a virtual following to the tomb, that surpassed anything the world had ever seen.



CHAPTER III.

THE LINCOLN MONUMENT AT OAK PARK.

The funeral escort had not reached Springfield ere there was a common movement on foot to build a National Monument to the memory of the martyred President. Three years were consumed in securing funds and plans for the monument, and in getting all in readiness.

In Sept., 1869, the ground was broken and the foundations were laid before the close of that year. In 1871, the cap stone was placed upon the towering obelisk and in September the monument was so far advanced in its construction that the President's remains were removed from their temporary vault to their permanent resting place in the monument.

The bronze statue of Lincoln, the work of the artist L. G. Mead, was unveiled on Oct. 15, 1874. The notable event

on that occasion, other than the presence of President Grant, and other high officials of the government, was the oration of Governor Oglesby, which ended:

“This imposing monument and testimony to the worth of the man will endure so long as dust shall mark the spot where man has fallen.”

A poem written on the occasion has these lines:

“Not to the dust but to the deeds alone,
A grateful people raise the historic stone,
And cunning art shall here her triumph bring
And laurelled bards their choicest anthems
sing,

Here youth and manhood from their walls
profound,

Shall come and halt as if on hallowed ground
The spot where rests one of the noble few
Who saw the right and dared the right to do

CHAPTER IV.

LINCOLN ANECDOTES TERSELY TOLD.

Mr. Lincoln was addressing a jury of twelve men and he told them this story. "My client is in the fix of the man, who, in going along the highway with a pitchfork over his shoulder, was attacked by a fierce dog that ran out at him from a farmer's door-yard. In defending himself with the pitchfork, its tines or prongs stuck into the dog and killed him. "What made you kill my dog?" shouted the enraged farmer. "What made him bite me?" said the man. "Why didn't you come at him with the other end of the fork?" "*Why didn't he come at me with the other end?*" quickly responded the man.

Judge Davis of Illinois and Mr. Lincoln were great friends. Mr. Lincoln was habitually whispering stories to his neighbor, while sitting in the court room; often to the great annoyance of Judge Davis. When the thing went too far, the Judge would rap the

desk; "come, come, Mr. Lincoln, it is no use trying to carry on two courts in this room at the same time. I must adjourn mine or yours, and I think you will have to be the one." Then as soon as court was adjourned the judge would call the man to him; "*what was that Lincoln was telling?*"

Lincoln's ever readiness to help one in need, was illustrated at a spelling match. A girl friend of his was wrestling with an obstinate word. She began, "d-e-f"—hesitating whether to proceed with an "i" or a "y." Just then she caught sight of "Abe" who was grinning, and pointing his index finger at his organ of sight. She took the hint and went through all right.

After Mr. Lincoln's first nomination, a committee visited him to give him notification: When the ceremony was over, Mr. Lincoln said: "Gentlemen, we must pledge our mutual healths in the most healthful beverage which God has given to man. It is the

ly beverage I have ever used. It is pure
dam's ale from the spring."

He then took a tumbler, poured out the
crystal stream, and touched it to his lips, and
edged them his highest respects in a cup of
old water; and they, out of respect to him,
followed his example.

Mr. Lincoln was exasperated at the dis-
crepancy between the number of troops sent
to General McClellan, and the number the
general reported as reaching him, and he ex-
claimed with much impatience: "Sending
men to that army is like shoveling fleas across
a barnyard, *half of them never get there.*"

When I was a boy, a man lecturing on
temperance stayed at our house over night.
It was cold, and the man was chilled through
when he got there after the meeting. The
man said, if we could give him a hot lemon-
ade, it would keep him most likely, from tak-
ing cold. It was suggested that some whisky
added might help(?). "Well," he said, "*you
ought put in some unbeknown to me.*"

The son of a poor widow was charged with murder, committed in a riot at a camp meeting. Lincoln defended the boy. A witness swore that he saw the prisoner strike the blow. It was night, but by the light of the moon that was shining brightly, he saw all distinctly. The case seemed hopeless for the accused.

Lincoln produced an almanac, and showed that at that hour on that night there was no moon. And then he proceeded to picture the crime of perjury with such eloquence and effect, that the false witness fled the scene. The day was closing when Mr. Lincoln concluded with this sentence: "If justice is done before sunset my client will be a free man." The court charged the jury briefly, and a verdict was quickly given, "*not guilty.*"

The prisoner fell into his mother's arms and both fell upon their knees to Lincoln who made no charge for his services. "See," he said, "it is not yet sundown and you are free man." An eye-witness said: "It was the most affecting scene I ever witnessed."

Mr. Shrigley had been nominated for captain in the army. There was opposition to him, and a delegation called on Mr. Lincoln to protest against his appointment, on the ground that the minister was not sound in his religious opinions. President Lincoln inquired, "on what question is the minister un-sound?" "He does not believe in endless punishment, and furthermore, he believes that rebels themselves, can be saved."

"*Is that so?*" ejaculated Mr. Lincoln, and then he added solemnly, "if that is so as you say; and if there is any way under heaven whereby the rebels can be saved, then, for God's sake, and for their own sake, let Mr. Shrigley be appointed."

A party, including Mr. Lincoln, was riding over a rough, corduroy road to army headquarters on a certain occasion, and were amused with the driver's occasional volley of suppressed oaths at his wild team of six mules. Finally Mr. Lincoln touched the dri-

ver on the shoulder. "Excuse me, are you
Episcopalian?"

The surprised man was frustrated for a moment, but recovered himself and answered, "No, Mr. President, I am a Methodist." "Well, I thought you must be an Episcopalian," said Lincoln, "because you swear just like Governor Seward, who is a church warden."

A man convicted by court martial was to be shot next day. Congressman Kellogg pleaded for the man's life. Secretary Stanton was inexorable. Kellogg went to President Lincoln at dead of night, but although gone to bed, Mr. Lincoln heard the Congressman's plea for the man's life and wrote out a reprieve, saying, "*I don't believe shooting will do him any good.*"

During the war an Austrian Count applied to President Lincoln for a position in the army, and he proceeded to explain his noble birth and high standing. "Never mind," said M

Lincoln, "*you shall be treated with just as much consideration for all that.*"

General Halleck wanted General Grant 'to let up' a little in his strenuous campaign in Virginia, and send a part of his army to help him enforce the draft. The president telegraphed to General Grant. "I have seen your dispatch, expressing your unwillingness to break your hold where we are, nor am I willing. *Hold on with a bull dog grip, and chew, and chew, and choke as much as possible.*"

A man came to Mr. Lincoln to employ his legal services. "State your case," said Mr. Lincoln. The man stated his case in detail when Mr. Lincoln promptly informed him, "you will have to excuse me, for I cannot serve you; you are in the wrong, and the other party is in the right."

"But, Mr. Lincoln, that is none of your business. I pay you for your services to win the case."

"My business is never to defend the wrong in any case whatsoever, affirmed Mr.

Lincoln. "Not for any amount of money?" asked the stranger in great surprise. "Not for all you are worth, and now," added Mr. Lincoln, "I will give you this advice free of charge. *Go and earn six hundred dollars in some other way.*"

President Lincoln appointed a society man as consul to a South American country. A wag, meeting the appointee, a "dandy" sort of man, on his way to the White House to confer with the President, volunteered the information that the country to which he was appointed, was full of bugs, and that they would make life miserable.

At the White House, this aspirant for honors mentioned the matter to President Lincoln. "I have been informed," he said, "that the place was full of vermin, and that they would eat me up in a week's time." "In that case," remarked Mr. Lincoln, scanning the young man from head to foot, "*they would leave a mighty fine suit of clothes.*"

One day on a railroad train Mr. Lincoln met a stranger. "Excuse me," said the stranger, "but I have an article in my possession that belongs to you." "How so?" inquired Mr. Lincoln. The man drew a jack knife from his pocket, saying at the same time: "This knife was placed in my hands some years ago, with the injunction that I was to keep it until I met a man uglier than myself. I think you are fairly entitled to the property, which I now transfer to you."

General Hunter said that the "blacks" could not work if you give them freedom. Lincoln replied, "That reminds me of a man out in Illinois, by the name of Case, who thought to raise a large herd of hogs, but he did not want the trouble of feeding them, so he hit upon the expedient of planting an immense potato field, and when the potatoes were sufficiently grown, he would turn the hogs into the field and let them have full swing.

"But, Mr. Case," said a neighbor, "that is all very fine in summer time, but out here

in Illinois the ground freezes a foot deep when winter comes, and then, what are your hogs going to do?" Mr. Case had not taken that into account. Scratching his head as if to quicken his thought, he said: "Well, it may be hard on their snouts, but 'twill be root hog or die."

Just after the battle at Fredericksburg so disastrous to the Union forces, a messenger carried the news to Washington. The President had received ugly rumors of the defeat and the messenger saw in his face his distress and dreaded to add to it by telling him the worst, and said to him, "I wish, Mr. President, I could tell you how to conquer or get rid of the rebel states."

Mr. Lincoln's face brightened as he said "That reminds me of a story. Two boys in my state were out gunning, and in the middle of the wood they saw in the near distance a large, vicious dog bounding toward them. One boy had time to take refuge in a tree, the other missed his chance to escape up the tree

and kept in the circle, running around it, the dog after him. By drawing in the circle he leaned on the dog, and when near enough, he caught him by the tail, and the spin around the tree went on. It was a desperate grip he held, but dangerous. He would gladly let go, but dared not, and appealed to his comrade in the tree to come down and *help him to let go*. And that is my fix. I can't let go the hold on the rebel states."

One of Mr. Lincoln's rivals, a liveryman, provided him with a slow horse to ride to a political convention, in the hope that he would not reach his destination on time. He got there, however, and on returning the animal, Lincoln said to the liveryman: "*You keep this horse for funerals, don't you?*" "Oh no," replied the man. "Well, I'm glad of that, for you did you'd never get the corpse to the grave in time for the resurrection."

A lady called upon Mr. Lincoln who had a real estate claim, or thought she had, and begged him to take up her case and she left a

check, a retainer, in his hands, of two hundred dollars.. Mr Lincoln examined her claim and when she called again he told her frankly, that she had no legal ground upon which to base her claim, and advised her not to press the suit.

The lady had confidence in his word, and was satisfied, and was leaving, when Mr. Lincoln took from his vest pocket the \$200 check saying, "here is the money you left with me." "But, Mr. Lincoln," said the woman, "it is yours, you have earned it." "No, that would not be right," *Mr. Lincoln insisted, and he had his way.*

An officer under General Sherman complained to Mr. Lincoln that General Sherman threatened to shoot him. "Threatened to shoot you!" exclaimed Lincoln, and then in a stage whisper he said, "If I was in your place and he had threatened to shoot, I would not trust him, *for I believe he would do it.*"

Friends were beseeching Mr. Lincoln to grant their ward a commission to serve the

overnment in the Sandwich Islands, and they urged not only his virtues, but the fact of his poor health, as a reason why he should be favored; whereupon Mr. Lincoln confronted them with the more stubborn fact, that "there were eight other applicants for that one position, *and they are all sicker than our man.*"

At the second inauguration the day being cloudy and dark, just as Mr. Lincoln stepped forward to take the oath of office, the sun burst forth in splendor through the cloud. On the next day, Mr. Lincoln spoke of the incident to friends. "Did you notice that sun burst? *It made my heart jump.*"

When President Lincoln first arrived in Washington, he found himself so besieged with office seekers, and men clamoring for place and position, he declared, "I feel like a man letting lodgings at one end of the house, while the other end is on fire."

Mr. Lincoln and another gentleman were riding through the country on an old time

mud coach and they were arguing on ethical subjects. Mr. Lincoln had said that all men were prompted by selfishness in what they did, whether it be good or evil. His fellow passenger took exception to this statement; he did not think it a true statement. Just then they were crossing one of those common-in-that-day corduroy bridges laid through the swamp, and that made the old mud-wagon shake like a man in an ague fit. Hard by was an old "razor back," a mother hog, making a great noise, because some of her pigs had got into the slough, and were unable to get out.

Mr. Lincoln called out: "Driver, can't you stop just a moment, and let me help those pigs out of the water?" The driver replied, "If the other feller don't object." The other "feller" was Col. E. D. Baker, the gallant General who fell in the battle at Ball's Bluff, and he did not object. Mr. Lincoln quickly jumped out, and tenderly lifted the pigs out of the mud and slush, and placed them safely on the bank.

“Now, Abe,” said Col. Baker, when he returned to his seat in the hack, “where does selfishness come in in this little episode?” “Why, bless your soul, Ed., that was the very essence of selfishness. I would have had no peace of mind all day, had I gone on and left that suffering old sow worrying over those pigs. *I did it to get peace of mind, and this is what I mean by selfishness.*”

One of the last official acts of Mr. Lincoln was, on the day of the night he was murdered, to sign a pardon of a soldier sentenced to be shot, saying, “I think the boy can do us more good above the ground than under it.”

CHAPTER V.

THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY.

At the opening of the Twentieth Century, foundations are laid, upon which are rising a monument to Abraham Lincoln, more durable than stone or bronze, or anything mechanics can pile, or artificers mould; a memorial, altogether worthy of the man and of his deeds.

General Howard conceived the idea that a "Lincoln Memorial University" would be the greatest and most becoming monument to perpetuate the name and fame of the man, most in the thoughts of the American people.

The location of the Lincoln Memorial University is at Cumberland Gap, at the cornering of the three states, Tennessee, Kentucky and Virginia, and in the center of a population of mountain people, two millions strong, rich in heredity, Scotch-

ish, French-Huguenots, English and German. These Apalachian mountains, from the days of the American revolution, have seemed to beget the spirit of liberty and sympathy with free institutions; and in the Civil War these warm hearted people, "loyal refugees," Mr. Lincoln called them, endured and suffered much.

It was proper and right that the American people should provide for these wards of the nation, and provide in this way, and in the name of Abraham Lincoln. Already the movers of this enterprise are at work, building up a group of Industrial Schools in this Tennessee district so far distant from Lincoln's birthplace, and near where his grandsire was assassinated by hostile Indians.

The first purpose of this movement is to build up an educational institution for the betterment of the people of all that region. The second and incidental purpose is, to

rear in the Allegheny mountains a substantial and lasting monument, in memory of the name and deeds of Abraham Lincoln. The charter of the University reads: "said University shall seek to make education possible to the children of the 'plain' people, among whom Abraham Lincoln was born."

Providentially, the way opened to do this thing; nor the least item was that the Cumberland Park Co.'s property, costing over one million dollars, was bought for a fraction of that sum, as a site for the University campus and farms. The property consisting of five hundred acres of good farming lands, with seven buildings and machinery.

The schools now have three hundred students and sixteen teachers. The large farms belonging to the University give every facility for carrying on agricultural and horticultural operations, the work all

ing done by the students, giving support to those who need it.

The schools publish an illustrated journal, called "The Mountain Herald," besides doing the work of a job office. The students do both the mechanical and head work in the publishing house, serving under the superintendency of a professional printer. A skilled draughtsman and pattern maker has a class of young men in mechanical drawing and wood working. These artisans and artists, as they grow proficient will take a hand in the construction of the new buildings to go up now and henceforth. Students do all the labor, serving under competent mechanics, who are the teachers in the several industries, or departments of labor.

The mission of the schools is ever kept in mind, namely, to provide a practical, business education to the young people of both sexes, to the "American Highland-

ers," as Prof. Larry speaks of the people of all that mountainous and heretofore neglected region.

General Howard relates that in his last interview with President Lincoln, he received from him special charge to look after, and provide as far as possible, for these mountain "refugees," who, living upon the border between the two fighting armies in the late war, were the greater sufferers.



CHAPTER VI.

MR. LINCOLN'S RELIGIOUS VIEWS.

The crude theology of the backwoods preachers in Indiana and Illinois, which prevailed when Mr. Lincoln was a young man, was not relished by him.

And assuming that the Bible taught what they preached, it was not strange that young Lincoln should be impelled from love of truth to write, at the age of twenty three, a little book, in which he undertook to prove that the Bible was not the work of God, if it taught these things, and for the reason that God would not be party to wrong.

Lincoln intended to publish his pamphlet, but his friend and employer, Samuel Hill, knowing that to publish such views would prejudice the people against him, snatched the manuscript from Lincoln's hands and thrust it into the stove. The

book was never published. He gradually grew more reticent and cautious, however, and talked only to his friends, some of whom he shocked with his seeming infidelity, but only seeming.

Lincoln hated hypocrisy, and every form of injustice, and wrong. Insincerity was a trait of character wholly lacking in his nature.

He worshipped the good and the true, wherever he found it, not on Sundays only, but on every day of the week. His worship was love of truth, and helpful service to man as man.

Mr. Lincoln's religious views were fitted to right conduct; they were practical in their working. When, on a certain occasion he was asked for a statement of his faith, he said:

‘I am like an old man I knew in Indiana, who, in a church meeting said, ‘when I do

good I feel good, and when I do bad, I feel bad,' and that is my religion."

On another occasion he said: "Show me a church with the two Great Commandments for its creed and I will join it."

Mr. Lincoln's religious life was built solidly on the right, as he saw the right. He would not move a hair's breadth away from the truth and the right; he would die for the right and did. "I would, rather than give up this principle, be assassinated on this spot."

Lincoln believed devoutly in the brotherhood of man and in the fatherhood of God; and he believed in the life immortal and in rest after the world's well fought battle.

During the four long years of the civil war, Mr. Lincoln gave abundant expression to his unwavering trust in the justice, mercy and providence of God. "I know,"

he said, "that God hates injustice, and slavery. Pray that I may receive the Divine assistance, without which I cannot succeed, but with which I cannot fail."

Mr. Lincoln never, even in the darkest days in the middle years of the Rebellion's continuance, despaired of the government; he believed that right made might, and that forever right was stronger than wrong and that in the end, it must prevail.

END.







